

What is claimed is:

1. A method of indexing a database of documents, comprising:
providing a vocabulary of n terms;
indexing the database in the form of a non-negative $n \times m$ index matrix V ,

5 wherein:

m is equal to the number of documents in the database;

n is equal to the number of terms used to represent the database; and

the value of each element v_{ij} of index matrix V is a function of the number of occurrences
of the i^{th} vocabulary term in the j^{th} document;

10 factoring out non-negative matrix factors T and D such that

$V \approx TD$; and

wherein T is an $n \times r$ term matrix, D is an $r \times m$ document matrix, and $r <$
 $nm/(n+m)$.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising deleting said index matrix V .

15 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising deleting said term matrix T .

4. The method of claim 1 wherein r is at least one order of magnitude
smaller than n .

5. The method of claim 1 wherein r is from two to three orders of magnitude smaller than n .

6. The method of claim 1 wherein entries of said document matrix D falling below a predetermined threshold value t are set to zero.

5 7. The method of claim 2 wherein r is at least one order of magnitude smaller than n .

8. The method of claim 2 wherein r is from two to three orders of magnitude smaller than n .

10 9. The method of claim 2 wherein entries of said document matrix D falling below a predetermined threshold value t are set to zero.

10. The method of claim 3 wherein r is at least one order of magnitude smaller than n .

11. The method of claim 3 wherein r is from two to three orders of magnitude smaller than n .

15 12. The method of claim 3 wherein entries of said document matrix D falling below a predetermined threshold value t are set to zero.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said factoring out of non-negative matrix factors T and D further comprises:

selecting a cost function and associated update rules from the group:

cost function $F = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m [V_{ij} \log(TD)_{ij} - (TD)_{ij}]$ associated with

5 update rules $T_{ik} \leftarrow T_{ik} \sum_j \frac{V_{ij}}{(TD)_{ij}} D_{kj}$, $T_{ik} \leftarrow \frac{T_{ik}}{\sum_l T_{lk}}$, and $D_{kj} \leftarrow D_{kj} \sum_i T_{ij} \frac{V_{ij}}{(TD)_{ij}}$,

cost function $F = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \left[V_{ij} \log \frac{V_{ij}}{(TD)_{ij}} - (V_{ij}) + (TD)_{ij} \right]$ associated with

update rules $D_{kj} \leftarrow D_{kj} \frac{\sum_i T_{ik} V_{ij}}{\sum_l T_{lk}}$ and $T_{ik} \leftarrow T_{ik} \frac{\sum_j D_{kj} V_{ij}}{\sum_h D_{kh}}$, and

cost function $\|V - TD\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (V_{ij} - (TD)_{ij})^2$ associated with update

rules $D_{kj} \leftarrow D_{kj} \frac{(T^T V)_{kj}}{(T^T TD)_{kj}}$ and $T_{ik} \leftarrow T_{ik} \frac{(VD^T)_{ik}}{(TDD^T)_{ik}}$; and

10 iteratively calculating said update rules so as to converge said cost function toward a limit until the distance between V and TD is reduced to or beyond a desired value.

14. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for indexing
15 a database of documents, said method steps comprising:

providing a vocabulary of n terms;

indexing the database in the form of a non-negative $n \times m$ index matrix V ,

wherein:

m is equal to the number of documents in the database;

n is equal to the number of terms used to represent the database; and

the value of each element v_{ij} of index matrix V is a function of the number of occurrences of the i^{th} vocabulary term in the j^{th} document;

factoring out non-negative matrix factors T and D such that

$$V \approx TD; \text{ and}$$

wherein T is an $n \times r$ term matrix, D is an $r \times m$ document matrix, and $r < nm/(n+m)$.

15. A database index, comprising:

an $r \times m$ document matrix D , such that

$$V \approx TD$$

wherein T is an $n \times r$ term matrix;

V is a non-negative $n \times m$ index matrix, wherein each of its m columns represents an j^{th} document having n entries containing the value of a function of the number of occurrences of a i^{th} term appearing in said j^{th} document; and

wherein T and D are non-negative matrix factors of V and $r < nm/(n+m)$;

and

wherein each of the m columns of said document matrix D corresponds to said j^{th} document.

16. A method of information retrieval, comprising:

providing a query comprising a plurality of search terms;

providing a vocabulary of n terms;

performing a first pass retrieval through a first database representation and

5 scoring m retrieved documents according to relevance to said query;

executing a second pass retrieval through a second database representation

and scoring documents retrieved from said first pass retrieval so as to generate a final relevancy score for each document; and

wherein said second database representation comprises an $r \times m$ document

10 matrix D , such that

$$V \approx TD$$

wherein T is an $n \times r$ term matrix;

V is a non-negative $n \times m$ index matrix, wherein each of its m columns represents an j^{th} document having n entries containing the value of a function of the number of occurrences of a i^{th} term of said vocabulary appearing in said j^{th} document; and

15 wherein T and D are non-negative matrix factors of V and $r < nm/(n+m)$;

and

wherein each of the m columns of said document matrix D corresponds to said j^{th} document.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said final relevancy score for any j^{th} document is a function of said j^{th} document's corresponding entry in said document

matrix D and the corresponding entries in said document matrix D of the Γ top-scoring documents from said first pass retrieval.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said relevancy score function for said j^{th} document is proportional to a sum of cosine distances between said j^{th} document s corresponding entry in said document matrix D and each of said corresponding entries in said document matrix D of the Γ top-scoring documents from said first pass retrieval.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein r is at least one order of magnitude smaller than n .

20. The method of claim 16 wherein r is from two to three orders of magnitude smaller than n .

21. The method of claim 16 wherein entries of said document matrix D falling below a predetermined threshold value t are set to zero.

22. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for information retrieval, said method steps comprising:

- providing a query comprising a plurality of search terms;
- providing a vocabulary of n terms;

performing a first pass retrieval through a first database representation and scoring m retrieved documents according to relevance to said query;

executing a second pass retrieval through a second database representation and scoring documents retrieved from said first pass retrieval so as to generate a final relevancy score for each document; and

wherein said second database representation comprises an $r \times m$ document matrix D , such that

$$V \approx TD$$

wherein T is an $n \times r$ term matrix;

V is a non-negative $n \times m$ index matrix, wherein each of its m columns represents an j^{th} document having n entries containing the value of a function of the number of occurrences of a i^{th} term of said vocabulary appearing in said j^{th} document; and

wherein T and D are non-negative matrix factors of V and $r < nm/(n+m)$; and

wherein each of the m columns of said document matrix D corresponds to said j^{th} document.